IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1-59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented biometric identification method, comprising:

receiving a biometric sample from an individual;

locating a set of currently stored registration biometric samples, wherein at least two of the currently stored registration biometric samples in the set are provided by ~~at least~~ two different registered individuals respectively;

comparing the received biometric sample with at least one ~~of the~~ currently stored registration biometric sample~~s~~ in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples to find a match; and

transmitting a confirmation of the match.

61. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 60, wherein the method further comprises receiving a personal identification code from the individual.

62. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 61, wherein locating a set of currently stored registration biometric samples includes locating the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

63. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 60, further comprising:

receiving a new registration biometric sample for the individual during a registration step; and

storing the new registration biometric sample in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples.

64. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 63, further comprising receiving a personal identification code for the individual during the registration step.

65. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 64, wherein storing the new registration biometric sample includes storing the new registration biometric sample in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

66. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 60, wherein the identification method is conducted without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

67. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented biometric identification method, comprising:

receiving a biometric sample from an individual;

locating a currently stored set of registration biometric samples, wherein at least two of the registration biometric samples in the currently stored set are provided by ~~at least~~ two different registered individuals respectively;

comparing the received biometric sample with a subset of the currently stored set of registration biometric samples to produce an evaluation; and

transmitting the evaluation.

68. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 67, further comprising receiving a personal identification code from the individual.

69. (Currently Amended) The identification method of claim 67, wherein each of the registration biometric samples in the currently stored set is associated with a personal identification code from the individual.

70. (Currently Amended) The identification method of claim 69 wherein:

the method further comprises receiving a personal identification code from the individual; and

comparing the received biometric sample includes comparing the received biometric sample with a subset of the currently stored set of registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code to produce the evaluation.

71. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 70, further comprising receiving the personal identification code from the individual.

72. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 71, wherein locating a currently stored set of currently stored registration biometric samples includes locating the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

73. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 67, wherein the identification method is conducted without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

74. (Currently Amended) The identification method of claim ~~65, 67,~~ further comprising receiving the personal identification code from the individual.

75. (Currently Amended) The identification method of claim 74, wherein locating a currently stored set of ~~currently stored~~ registration biometric samples includes locating the currently stored set of ~~currently stored~~ registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

76. (Currently Amended) An identification computer system comprising:

a database configured to store a set of registration biometric samples, wherein at least two of the registration biometric samples in the set are provided by ~~at least~~ two different registered individuals respectively;

a network component configured to receive a biometric data from an individual over a communication link and output data associated with the individual over the communication link; and

a comparator component configured to compare the biometric data from the individual with at least one registration biometric sample in a subset of the registration biometric samples stored in the database to locate the data associated with the individual, the subset of the registration biometric samples including registration biometric samples from at least two individuals.

77. (Currently Amended) The identification computer system of claim 76, wherein the network component is ~~operable~~ configured to receive a personal identification code from the individual over the communication link.

78. (Currently Amended) The identification computer system of claim 77, wherein the comparator component is configured ~~operable~~ to compare the biometric data from the individual with a subset of the registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code from the individual to determine the identity of the individual.

79. (Currently Amended) The identification computer system of claim 76, wherein the network component is ~~operable~~ configured to receive a registration biometric sample for the individual and store the registration biometric sample in the database.

80. (Currently Amended) The identification computer system of claim 79, wherein the network component is ~~operable~~ configured to receive with the registration biometric sample for the individual a registration personal identification code for the individual and to associate the registration biometric sample with the registration personal identification code in the database.

81. (Currently Amended) The identification computer system of claim 80, wherein the ~~central~~ identification computer system is ~~operable~~ configured to receive the personal

identification code from the individual over the communication link, and locate the set of registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

82. (Currently Amended) The identification computer system of claim 76, wherein the identification system is designed to operate without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

83. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented identification method, comprising:

gathering biometric information from an individual for a transaction;

transmitting the biometric information to an identicator via an output port;

receiving ~~from the identicator~~ account data associated with the individual from the identicator; and

using the account data associated with the individual to perform the transaction.

84. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 83, wherein the biometric information includes a biometric sample.

85. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 84, wherein the biometric information further includes a personal identification code.

86. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 83, further comprising:

gathering a registration biometric sample received from the individual; and

transmitting the registration biometric sample to the identicator via the output port.

87. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 86, further comprising:

determining a personal identification code for the individual; and

transmitting the personal identification code to the identicator via the output port.

88. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 87, wherein gathering the biometric information from the individual includes gathering the personal identification code from the individual.

89. (Previously Presented) The identification method of claim 83, wherein the identification method is conducted without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

90. (Currently Amended) An identification system comprising:

a local computer system including an output port to transmit biometric data from an individual onto a communication link and an input port to receive account data associated with the individual from the communication link; and

an output device within the local computer system to use the account data associated with the individual to perform a transaction.

91. (Previously Presented) The identification system of claim 90, further comprising a biometric input device to receive the biometric data from the individual, the local computer system operative to control the biometric input device.

92. (Previously Presented) The identification system of claim 90, including an alphanumeric input device coupled to the local computer system for the individual to input alphanumeric data, the local computer operative to transmit the alphanumeric data via the output port.

93. (Previously Presented) The identification system of claim 90, wherein the output device is operable to indicate the data associated with the individual.

94. (Previously Presented) The identification system of claim 90, wherein the identification system is operative without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

95. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable media storing software to implement the method of:

receiving a biometric sample from an individual;

locating a set of currently stored registration biometric samples, wherein at least two of the ~~currently stored~~ registration biometric samples in the set are provided by ~~at least~~ two different registered individuals respectively;

comparing the received biometric sample with at least one ~~of the~~ currently stored registration biometric samples in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples to find a match; and

transmitting a confirmation of the match.

96. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 95, wherein the method further comprises receiving a personal identification code from the individual.

97. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 96, wherein locating a set of currently stored registration biometric samples includes locating the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

98. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 95, further comprising:

receiving a new registration biometric sample for the individual during a registration step; and

storing the new registration biometric sample in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples.

99. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 98, further comprising receiving a personal identification code for the individual during the registration step.

100. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 99, wherein storing the new registration biometric sample includes storing the new registration biometric

sample in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

101. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 100, further comprising receiving the personal identification code from the individual.

102. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 101, wherein locating a set of currently stored registration biometric samples includes locating the set of currently stored registration biometric samples associated with the personal identification code.

103. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 95, wherein the identification method is conducted without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

104. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable media storing software to implement the method of:

gathering biometric information from an individual for a transaction;

transmitting the biometric information to an identicator via an output port;

receiving ~~from the identicator~~ account data associated with the individual from the identicator; and

using the account data associated with the individual to perform the transaction.

105. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 104, wherein the biometric information includes a biometric sample.

106. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 105, wherein the biometric information further includes a personal identification code.

107. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 104, further comprising:

gathering a registration biometric sample received from the individual; and

transmitting the registration biometric sample to the identicator via the output port.

108. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 107, further comprising:

determining a personal identification code for the individual; and

transmitting the personal identification code to the identicator via the output port.

109. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 108, wherein gathering the biometric information from the individual includes gathering the personal identification code from the individual.

110. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media of claim 104, wherein the identification method is conducted without the individual presenting any smartcards or magnetic swipe cards.

111. (New) The identification method of claim 60, wherein comparing the received biometric sample with at least one of the currently stored registration biometric samples includes:

comparing the received biometric sample with a first of the currently stored registration biometric samples; and

if the received biometric sample does not match the first of the currently stored registration biometric samples, comparing the received biometric sample with others of the currently stored registration biometric samples until either a match is found or the received biometric sample has been compared with each of the currently stored registration biometric samples.

112. (New) The identification method of claim 67, wherein comparing the received biometric sample with a subset of the currently stored set of registration biometric samples to produce an evaluation includes comparing the received biometric sample with at least two registration biometric samples in the subset of the currently stored set of registration biometric

samples to produce an evaluation, the subset of the currently stored set of registration biometric samples including at least two registration biometric samples.

113. (New) The identification system of claim 76, wherein the comparator is operative to compare the received biometric sample with a first of the currently stored registration biometric samples and, if the received biometric sample does not match the first of the currently stored registration biometric samples, compare the received biometric sample with others of the currently stored registration biometric samples until either a match is found or the received biometric sample has been compared with each of the currently stored registration biometric samples.

114. (New) The computer-readable media of claim 95, wherein comparing the received biometric sample with at least one registration biometric sample in the set of currently stored registration biometric samples includes:

comparing the received biometric sample with a first of the currently stored registration biometric samples; and

if the received biometric sample does not match the first of the currently stored registration biometric samples, comparing the received biometric sample with others of the currently stored registration biometric samples until either a match is found or the received biometric sample has been compared with each of the currently stored registration biometric samples.